

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:SMOREYBELL:VV

APPROVED BY ARA/LA:WDROGERS

S/AB:AMB.BUNKER

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 014080 TOSEC 010021

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PN, PFOR

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM: TORRIJOS' ADVENTURE IN CUBA
JANUARY 10-15

TO THE SECRETARY FROM ROGERS, BUNKER CONCURRING

1. WE HAVE COME OUT OF THIS WELL.
2. CASTRO COUNSELED TORRIJOS TO BE PATIENT AND PEACEFUL
IN DEALING WITH US ON THE NEGOTIATIONS. TORRIJOS PUBLICLY
ACCEPTED THAT COUNSEL.
3. TORRIJOS REFRAINED FROM ENDORSING CUBAN SOCIALISM. HE
SAID THE TWO COUNTRIES WERE TAKING DIFFERENT ROADS TO
ACHIEVE THE GOAL OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC JUSTICE. (DAVID BINDER,
WHO WENT ALONG, SAYS THAT THE PANAMANIAN WERE "SHOCKED"

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AT SOME OF THE RIGIDITIES THEY SAW). THE HEADLINES IN

PANAMA THE DAY TORRIJOS RETURNED WERE: "TORRIJOS DOES NOT WANT SOCIALISM FOR PANAMA."

4. BY VIRTUE OF THIS VISIT TORRIJOS UNDERCUT DOMESTIC-OPPOSITION MOVES FROM HIS LEFT. BY DISASSOCIATING HIMSELF FROM SOCIALISM HE REASSURED HIS OPPONENTS ON THE RIGHT. BY BOTH, HE HAS RELIEVED PRESSURES THAT COULD HAVE DISTURBED

THE NEGOTIATIONS. (WHICH, BY THE WAY, ARE GOING WELL. BUNKER FEELS THAT GOOD PROGRESS WAS MADE HERE IN DECEMBER. ANOTHER ROUND WILL BE HELD IN PANAMA IN FEBRUARY. BROWN, CLEMENTS AND BUNKER ARE IN TOUCH AND, I GATHER, PRETTY MUCH IN TUNE.)

5. THE CUBA VISIT RECEIVED MINIMAL PRESS COVERAGE IN THIS COUNTRY.

6. THE CONGRESS WAS NOT, OF COURSE, IN SESSION. PRESUMABLY TREATY OPPONENTS, AND POSSIBLY GOVERNOR REAGAN, WILL EXPLOIT TORRIJOS' "CUBA CONNECTION".

7. JAVITS TALKED WITH TORRIJOS IN PANAMA THE DAY BEFORE HE LEFT FOR CUBA AND WARNED AGAINST SPEAKING RASHLY WHILE THERE. BUNKER, JORDEN AND BELL HAD GIVEN THE SAME MESSAGE EARLIER TO THE GENERAL AND HIS CONFIDANTS.

8. ANOTHER INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT: TORRIJOS HAS JUST SETTLED A SERIOUS SQUABBLE WITH UNITED BRANDS ON EQUITABLE TERMS INSTEAD OF MOVING TOWARD EXPROPRIATION. ALSO HE HAS JUST SIGNED WITH TEXAS GULF FOR A HUGE COPPER EXPLOITATION. THESE SHOW HE IS MORE OF A PRAGMATIST THAN A "REVOLUTIONARY"...THAT HE IS DEEPLY DEVELOPMENT-ORIENTED... AND THAT HE IS BINDING THE ECONOMY TIGHTER TO THE UNITED STATES WHILE TRYING TO UNDO THE "SOVEREIGNTY" BINDS. SISCO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE014080
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SMOREYBELL:VV
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760021-0814
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760140/aaaabjht.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM: TORRIJOS' ADVENTURE IN CUBA JANUARY 10-15
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, PN, CU, (TORRIJOS HERRERA, OMAR)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006